Amendments to the Claims

1. (original) A method for decreasing depression by inhibiting the activity of N-type calcium channel.

2. (currently amended) The method ~~for decreasing depression as set forth in~~ of claim 1, wherein the N-type calcium channel ~~method~~ is an ~~inhibiting the activity of~~ alpha 1B of N-type calcium channel.

3. (currently amended) The method for decreasing depression as set forth in claim 1, wherein the inhibiting the N-type calcium channel is accomplished by administering ~~treating~~ a substance that acts ~~working~~ specifically upon the ~~toward~~ N-type calcium channel to inhibit its activity.

4. (currently amended) The method for decreasing depression as set forth in claim 1, wherein the inhibiting the N-type channel is accomplished by administering ~~treating~~ an antibody combining that specifically binds with the N-type calcium channel.

5. (currently amended) The method for decreasing depression as set forth in claim 1, wherein the inhibiting the N-type calcium channel is accomplished by suppressing ~~the~~ transcription of a gene encoding the N-type calcium channel.

6. (currently amended) The method for decreasing depression as set forth in claim 1, wherein the inhibiting the N-type calcium channel is accomplished by suppressing ~~the~~ translation of a transcribed N-type calcium channel gene.

7. (original) An anti-depression agent containing a N-type calcium channel inhibitor as an effective ingredient.

8. (currently amended) The anti-depression agent as set forth in claim 7, wherein the anti-depression agent contains ~~the~~ an N-type calcium channel alpha 1B inhibitor as an effective

ingredient.

9. (currently amended) The anti-depression agent as set forth in claim 7, wherein the N-type calcium channel inhibitor is ~~selected from a group consisting of~~ a compound acting specifically upon an N-type calcium channel to inhibit its activity, an antibody combining specifically with the N-type calcium channel, a substance inhibiting ~~the~~ transcription of a gene encoding the N-type calcium channel, or ~~and~~ a substance inhibiting ~~the~~ translation of a transcribed N-type calcium channel gene.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A screening method for ~~the~~ an anti-depression agent, comprising ~~as set forth in claim 10, wherein the method is comprised of the following steps~~:

~~1) O~~obtaining a transformant by transfecting host cells with a vector containing an alpha 1B structural gene and a reporter gene;

~~2) C~~culturing the ~~above~~ transformant ~~along~~ with a test sample for screening; and

~~3) M~~measuring the expression of the reporter gene, wherein decreased expression of the reporter gene indicates that expression of the alpha 1B structural gene is decreased and that the test sample is an anti-depression agent.